

November 22, 2006

To: All Interested Parties

Yellowstone County is planning to improve the spatial accuracy of the cadastral GIS data (parcels and Geographic Coordinate Database) in a cooperative effort with the City of Billings, US Bureau of Land Management and the Montana Department of Administration GIS Bureau, by entering higher accuracy coordinate information into the Geographic Coordinate Database (GCDB) for Public Lands Survey System (PLSS) corners.

The State of Montana has a statewide parcel mapping base that many of you may be using directly or indirectly. The next logical step in the maintenance of this data is to improve it in areas for which users need more accurate data. Yellowstone County will be one of the first counties to participate in this joint effort to improve those priority areas.

Users of parcel and boundary spatial data have the opportunity to participate in this county wide improvement project. The state has made a limited amount of funding available for this project. Users will be able to provide their priorities for consideration in this ongoing effort to improve the data.

The benefits include improved visual data overlays (e.g. parcels with aerial photography and data collected via GPS), improved vertical data integration analysis, and improved emergency response through increased accuracy of addressed structures.

The goals of this meeting include:

- Identify areas that need improvement in mapping accuracy
- Prioritize areas that have been identified according to stakeholder reason for interest, such as improve data integration, environmental concerns, energy, etc.
- Identify corners that have existing accurate control information (e.g. GPS)
- Determine whether interested parties (Stakeholders) have the capability to contribute time, funding, control information, or other resources
- Begin the process of developing a county-wide plan to address as many areas as are feasible, given the resources available for this project.

We are planning a meeting for all those interested in this effort on December 7th, 2006. It will be held in the Yellowstone County Courthouse, Room 105 at 1:30 p.m. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to provide input, resources, or otherwise be involved, feel free to contact me at your convenience. Please feel free to share this information with any colleagues who may be interested as well.

Annette Cabrera
GIS Manager
Yellowstone County Courthouse
Box 35043
Billings, MT 59107
Email: acabrera@co.yellowstone.mt.gov
(406) 256-2773

For more information about the Montana Control Point Database please contact either Mr. Stewart Kirkpatrick, Montana GIS Bureau, 406-444-9013/ sKirkpatrick@mt.gov or Mr. Rj Zimmer, Chair of the Montana Geodetic Control Working Group 406-431-5325 / RjZimmer@djanda.com